

## § 1220.101

- 1220.615 General.
- 1220.616 Supervision of the process for requesting a referendum.
- 1220.617 Eligibility.
- 1220.618 Time and place for requesting a referendum.
- 1220.619 Facilities.
- 1220.620 Certification and request form.
- 1220.621 Certification and request procedure.
- 1220.622 List of producers requesting a referendum.
- 1220.623 Challenge of eligibility.
- 1220.624 Canvassing.
- 1220.625 Counting requests.
- 1220.626 Public review.
- 1220.627 FSA county office report.
- 1220.628 FSA State office report.
- 1220.629 Reporting results.
- 1220.630 Disposition of records.
- 1220.631 Instructions and forms.

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### Subpart A—Soybean Promotion and Research Order

SOURCE: 56 FR 31049, July 9, 1991, unless otherwise noted.

#### DEFINITIONS

##### § 1220.101 **Act.**

The term *Act* means the Soybean Promotion, Research, and Consumer Information Act, subtitle E of title XIX, of the Food, Agriculture, Conservation and Trade Act of 1990, Public Law No. 101–624, and any amendments thereto.

##### § 1220.102 **Board.**

The term *Board* means the United Soybean Board established under § 1220.201 of this subpart.

##### § 1220.103 **Commerce.**

The term *commerce* means interstate, foreign, or intrastate commerce.

##### § 1220.104 **Committee.**

The term *Committee* means the Soybean Program Coordinating Committee established under § 1220.213 of this subpart.

##### § 1220.105 **Consumer information.**

The term *consumer information* means information that will assist consumers and other persons in making evaluations and decisions regarding the pur-

## 7 CFR Ch. XI (1–1–02 Edition)

chase, preparation, and use of soybeans or soybean products.

##### § 1220.106 **[Reserved]**

##### § 1220.107 **Cooperator organization.**

The term *Cooperator Organization* means the American Soybean Association, or any successor organization to the American Soybean Association, which conducts foreign market development activities on behalf of soybean producers.

##### § 1220.108 **Department.**

*Department* means the United States Department of Agriculture.

##### § 1220.109 **Eligible organization.**

The term *eligible organization* means any organization which has been certified by the Secretary pursuant to § 1220.203 of this subpart as being eligible to submit nominations for initial membership on the Board.

##### § 1220.110 **First purchaser.**

The term *first purchaser* means—

- (a) except as provided in paragraph (b) of this section, any person buying or otherwise acquiring from a producer soybeans produced by such producer; or
- (b) In any case in which soybeans are pledged as collateral for a loan issued under any Commodity Credit Corporation price support loan program and the soybeans are forfeited by the producer in lieu of loan repayment, the Commodity Credit Corporation.

[56 FR 31049, July 9, 1991, as amended at 56 FR 42923, Aug. 30, 1991; 57 FR 31095, July 14, 1992]

##### § 1220.111 **Fiscal period.**

The term *fiscal period* means the calendar year or such other annual period as the Board may determine with the approval of the Secretary.

##### § 1220.112 **Industry information.**

The term *industry information* means information and programs that will lead to the development of new markets, new marketing strategies, or increased efficiency for the soybean industry, and activities to enhance the image of the soybean industry.

## Agricultural Marketing Service, USDA

## § 1220.123

### § 1220.113 Marketing.

The term *marketing* means the sale or other disposition of soybeans or soybean products in any channel of commerce.

### § 1220.114 National nonprofit producer-governed organization.

The term *national nonprofit producer-governed organization* means an organization that—

(a) Is a nonprofit organization pursuant to section 501(c) (3), (5) or (6) of the Internal Revenue Code (26 U.S.C. 501(c) (3), (5) and (6)); and

(b) Is governed by a Board of directors of agricultural producers representing soybean producers on a national basis;

### § 1220.115 Net market price.

The term *net market price* means—

(a) except as provided in paragraph (b) of this section, the sales price, or other value received by a producer for soybeans after adjustments for any premium or discount based on grading or quality factors, as determined by the Secretary; or

(b) For soybeans pledged as collateral for a loan issued under any Commodity Credit Corporation price support loan program, and where the soybeans are forfeited by the producer in lieu of loan repayment, the principal amount of the loan.

[56 FR 31049, July 9, 1991, as amended at 56 FR 42923, Aug. 30, 1991; 57 FR 31095, July 14, 1992]

### § 1220.116 Part and subpart.

*Part* means the Soybean Promotion and Research Order and all rules and regulations issued pursuant to the Act and the Order, and the Order itself shall be a “Subpart” of such part.

### § 1220.117 Plans and projects.

*Plans and Projects* means promotion, research, consumer information, and industry information plans, studies, or projects pursuant to § 1220.230.

### § 1220.118 Person.

The term *person* means any individual, group of individuals, partnership, corporation, association, cooperative, or any other legal entity.

### § 1220.119 Producer.

The term *producer* means any person engaged in the growing of soybeans in the United States who owns, or who shares the ownership and risk of loss of, such soybeans.

### § 1220.120 [Reserved]

### § 1220.121 Promotion.

The term *promotion* means any action, including paid advertising, technical assistance, and trade servicing activities, to enhance the image or desirability of soybeans or soybean products in domestic and foreign markets, and any activity designed to communicate to consumers, importers, processors, wholesalers, retailers, government officials, or other information relating to the positive attributes of soybeans or soybean products or the benefits of importation, use, or distribution of soybeans and soybean products.

### § 1220.122 Qualified State Soybean Board.

The term *Qualified State Soybean Board* means a State soybean promotion entity that is authorized by State law and elects to be the Qualified State Soybean Board for the State in which it operates pursuant to § 1220.228(a)(1). If no such entity exists in a State, the term *Qualified State Soybean Board* means a soybean producer-governed entity—

(a) That is organized and operating within a State;

(b) That receives voluntary contributions and conducts soybean promotion, research, consumer information, or industry information programs; and

(c) That meets the criteria, established by the Board and approved by the Secretary, relating to the qualifications of such entity to perform its duties under this part as determined by the Board, and is certified by the Board under § 1220.228(a)(2), with the approval of the Secretary.

### § 1220.123 Referendum.

The term *Referendum* means a referendum, other than referenda defined in § 1220.106 and § 1220.124, to be conducted by the Secretary pursuant to the Act whereby producers shall be

## § 1220.124

given the opportunity to vote to determine whether the continuance of this subpart is favored by a majority of producers voting.

## § 1220.124 [Reserved]

## § 1220.125 Research.

The term *research* means any type of study to advance the image, desirability, marketability, production, product development, quality, or functional or nutritional value of soybeans or soybean products, including any research activity designed to identify and analyze barriers to export sales of soybeans and soybean products.

## § 1220.126 Secretary.

The term *Secretary* means the Secretary of Agriculture of the United States or any other officer or employee of the Department to whom there has been delegated, the authority to act in the Secretary's stead.

## § 1220.127 Soybean products.

The term *soybean products* means products produced in whole or in part from soybeans or soybean byproducts.

## § 1220.128 Soybeans.

The term *soybeans* means all varieties of *Glycine max* or *Glycine soja*.

## § 1220.129 State and United States.

The terms *State* and *United States* include the 50 States of the United States of America, the District of Columbia, and the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico.

## § 1220.130 Unit.

The term *unit* shall mean each State, or group of States, which is represented on the Board.

## UNITED SOYBEAN BOARD

## § 1220.201 Membership of board.

(a) For the purposes of nominating and appointing producers to the Board, the United States shall be divided into 30 geographic units and the number of Board members from each unit, subject to paragraphs (d) and (e) of this section shall be as follows:

## 7 CFR Ch. XI (1-1-02 Edition)

| Unit  | Number of members |
|---|-------------------|
| Illinois .....  | 4                 |
| Iowa .....  | 4                 |
| Minnesota .....   | 4                 |
| Indiana .....   | 4                 |
| Missouri .....  | 3                 |
| Ohio .....  | 3                 |
| Arkansas .....  | 3                 |
| Nebraska .....  | 3                 |
| South Dakota .....  | 3                 |
| Kansas .....  | 3                 |
| Mississippi .....   | 2                 |
| Louisiana .....   | 2                 |
| Tennessee .....   | 2                 |
| North Carolina .....  | 2                 |
| Kentucky .....  | 2                 |
| Michigan .....  | 2                 |
| North Dakota .....  | 2                 |
| Wisconsin .....   | 2                 |
| Maryland .....  | 1                 |
| Virginia .....  | 1                 |
| Georgia .....   | 1                 |
| South Carolina .....  | 1                 |
| Alabama .....   | 1                 |
| Delaware .....  | 1                 |
| Texas .....   | 1                 |
| Pennsylvania .....  | 1                 |
| Oklahoma .....  | 1                 |
| New Jersey .....  | 1                 |
| Eastern Region (New York, Massachusetts, Connecticut, Florida, Rhode Island, Vermont, New Hampshire, Maine, West Virginia, District of Columbia, and Puerto Rico) ..... | 1                 |
| Western Region (Montana, Wyoming, Colorado, New Mexico, Idaho, Utah, Arizona, Washington, Oregon, Nevada, California, Hawaii, and Alaska) .....                         | 1                 |

(b) The Board shall be composed of soybean producers appointed by the Secretary from nominations submitted pursuant to §1220.203. A soybean producer may only be nominated by the unit in which that soybean producer is a resident or producer.

(c) At the end of each three (3) year period, the Board shall review the geographic distribution of soybean production volume throughout the United States and may recommend to the Secretary a modification of paragraph (e) of this section, to best reflect the geographic distribution of soybean production volume in the United States. The Secretary may amend this subpart to make the changes recommended by the Board in levels of productions used to determine per unit representation. A unit may not, as a result of any modifications under this subsection, lose Board seats to which it is entitled at the time this subpart is initially issued unless its average annual production, as determined under paragraph (e)(6) of this section, declines below the levels

## Agricultural Marketing Service, USDA

## § 1220.203

required for representation, as specified in paragraphs (e) (1) through (5) of this section.

(d) At the end of each three (3) year period, the Secretary shall review the volume of production (minus the volume of production for which refunds have been paid) of each unit provided representation under paragraph (a) of this section, and shall adjust the boundaries of any unit and the number of Board members from each such unit to conform with the criteria set out in paragraphs (e) (1) through (5) of this section.

(e) The following formula will be used to determine the number of directors for each unit who shall serve on the Board:

(1)(i) Except as provided in paragraph (e)(1)(ii) of this section, each State will be considered as a separate unit.

(ii) States which do not have annual average soybean production equal to or greater than three million (3,000,000) bushels shall be grouped, to the extent practicable, into geographically contiguous units each of which, to the extent practicable, have a combined annual soybean production level which is equal to or greater than three million (3,000,000) bushels and each such unit shall be entitled to at least one representative on the Board.

(2) Each unit that has an annual average soybean production of less than fifteen million (15,000,000) bushels shall be entitled to one representative on the Board.

(3) Each unit which has an annual average soybean production of fifteen million (15,000,000) or more bushels but less than seventy million (70,000,000) bushels shall be entitled to two (2) representatives on the Board.

(4) Each unit which has an annual average soybean production of seventy million (70,000,000) or more bushels but less than two hundred million (200,000,000) bushels shall be entitled to three (3) representatives on the Board.

(5) Each unit which has an annual average soybean production of two hundred million (200,000,000) bushels or more shall be entitled to four (4) representatives on the Board.

(6) For the purposes of this section, average annual soybean production shall be determined by using the aver-

age of the production for the State or unit over the five previous years, excluding the year in which production was the highest and the year in which production was the lowest.

(f) [Reserved]

[56 FR 31049, July 9, 1991, as amended at 60 FR 29962, June 7, 1995; 60 FR 58500, Nov. 28, 1995; 62 FR 37489, July 14, 1997; 62 FR 41485, Aug. 1, 1997; 65 FR 63768, Oct. 25, 2000]

### § 1220.202 Term of office.

(a) The members of the Board shall serve for terms of 3 years, except that the members appointed to the initial Board shall serve, proportionately, for terms of 1, 2, and 3 years.

(b) Each member shall continue to serve until a successor is appointed by the Secretary and has accepted the position.

(c) No member shall serve more than three consecutive 3-year terms in such capacity.

### § 1220.203 Nominations.

All nominations for appointments to the Board under § 1220.204 shall be made in the following manner:

(a) After the issuance of this subpart by the Secretary, nominations shall be obtained by the Secretary as specified in paragraphs (a), (b), and (c) of this section from Qualified State Soybean Boards or for initial Board nominations, eligible organizations deemed qualified to nominate pursuant to paragraph (f) of the section. A Qualified State Soybean Board, or for initial Board nominations, an eligible organization shall only submit nominations for positions on the Board representing the unit, as established under § 1220.201, in which such Qualified State Soybean Board operates.

(b) If the Secretary determines that a unit is not represented by a Qualified State Soybean Board or for initial Board nominations, an eligible organization, then the Secretary may solicit nominations from organizations which represent producers in that unit and from producers residing in that unit. A caucus may be held in such units for the purpose of collectively submitting nominations to the Secretary.

(c) Where there is more than one State comprising a unit, the Secretary

## **§ 1220.204**

shall take into consideration the nominations submitted by Qualified State Soybean Boards or for initial Board nominations, eligible organizations, within the unit. A caucus may be held in such units for the purpose of collectively submitting nominations to the Secretary. The Secretary shall consider the proportional levels of production in each State comprising the unit when appointing members to the Board representing that unit.

(d) At least two nominations shall be submitted for each position to be filled.

(e) Nominations may be submitted in order of preference and for the initial Board, in order of preference for staggered terms. Should the Secretary reject any nomination submitted and there are insufficient nominations submitted from which appointments can be made, the Secretary may request additional nominations under paragraph (a) or (b) of this section, whichever provision is applicable for such unit.

(f) Any organization authorized pursuant to State law to collect assessments from producers may notify the Secretary of the organization's intent to nominate members to the initial Board for the State or unit, as established under § 1220.201, in which such organization operates and is authorized by State law. Such eligibility shall be based only upon the criteria established pursuant to § 1220.228(a)(1). There shall only be one organization authorized per State pursuant to this section to submit nominations to the initial Board. If no such entity exists in a State, any organization meeting those requirements of § 1220.228(a)(2) may request eligibility to submit nominations.

## **§ 1220.204 Appointment.**

From the nominations made pursuant to § 1220.203, the Secretary shall appoint the members of the Board on the basis of representation provided for in § 1220.201.

## **§ 1220.205 Nominee's agreement to serve.**

Any producer nominated to serve on the Board shall file with the Secretary at the time of nomination a written agreement to:

(a) Serve on the Board if appointed; and

(b) Agree to disclose any relationship with any soybean promotion entity or with any organization that has or is being considered for a contractual relationship with the Board.

## **§ 1220.206 Vacancies.**

To fill any vacancy occasioned by the death, removal, resignation, or disqualification of any member of the Board, the Secretary shall request nominations for a successor pursuant to § 1220.203, and such successor shall be appointed pursuant to § 1220.204.

## **§ 1220.207 Alternate members.**

(a) The Secretary shall solicit, pursuant to the procedures of § 1220.203, nominations for alternate members of the Board.

(b) The Secretary shall appoint one alternate member of the Board for each unit which has only one member pursuant to § 1220.204 and § 1220.205.

(c) Alternate members of the Board may attend meetings of the Board as a voting member upon the following circumstances:

(1) A member of the Board for the unit which the alternate member represents is absent; and

(2) Such member, or in the case of incapacitation or death of the member, a relative, has contacted the appropriate officer of the Board to inform such officer of such absence;

(d) An alternate member of the Board, when attending Board meetings in an official capacity, shall have the rights, duties and obligations of a Board member.

## **§ 1220.208 Removal.**

If the Secretary determines that any person appointed under this part fails or refuses to perform his or her duties properly or engages in acts of dishonesty or willful misconduct, the Secretary shall remove the person from office. A person appointed or certified under this part or any employee of the Board or Committee may be removed by the Secretary if the Secretary determines that the person's continued service would be detrimental to the purposes of the Act.

**§ 1220.209 Procedure.**

(a) At a properly convened meeting of the Board, a majority of the members shall constitute a quorum.

(b)(1) Except for roll call votes, each member of the Board will be entitled to one vote on any matter put to the Board and the motion will carry if supported by a simple majority of those voting.

(2)(i) If a member requests a roll call vote, except as provided in paragraph (b)(2)(ii) of this section, each unit as established under § 1220.201, shall cast one vote for each percent, or portion of a percent, of the average total amount of assessments remitted to the Board that was remitted from the unit (minus refunds) during each of the three previous fiscal years of the Board under § 1220.223.

(ii)(A) During the first fiscal year of the Board, the percentage used to determine the votes given to a unit will be based on annual average soybean production of the three previous years. If a unit is represented by more than one member, each member representing the unit shall receive an equal percentage of the votes allocated to the unit.

(B) During the second and third year this subpart is in effect, the percentage used to determine the votes given to a unit will be based upon averaging the unit's percentage of annual assessments remitted to the Board (minus refunds).

(iii) Should a member representing a unit not be present, then the other members representing such unit shall vote, on an equal basis if there is more than one member representing the unit present, the number of votes which the absent member would have been entitled to vote.

(iv) A motion will carry on a roll call vote if approved by both a simple majority of all votes cast and a simple majority of all units voting (with the vote of each unit determined by a simple majority of all votes cast by members in that unit).

(3) A member may not cast votes by proxy.

(c) In lieu of a properly convened meeting and, when in the opinion of the chairperson of the Board such action is considered necessary, the Board

may take action upon the concurring votes of a majority of its members, or if a roll call vote is requested, a simple majority of all votes cast and a simple majority of all units voting by mail, telephone, facsimile, or telegraph, but any such action by telephone shall be confirmed promptly in writing. In the event that such action is taken, all members must be notified and provided the opportunity to vote. Any action so taken shall have the same force and effect as though such action had been taken at a regular or special meeting of the Board.

(d) On or after the end of the three-year period beginning on the effective date of this subpart, the Board may recommend to the Secretary changes in the voting procedures of the Board described in paragraph (b) of this section.

**§ 1220.210 Compensation and reimbursement.**

The members of the Board shall serve without compensation but shall be reimbursed for necessary and reasonable expenses incurred by them in the performance of their responsibilities under this subpart.

**§ 1220.211 Powers of the Board.**

The Board shall have the following powers:

(a) To receive and evaluate, or on its own initiative develop, and budget for plans or projects for promotion, research, consumer information, and industry information and to make recommendations to the Secretary regarding such proposals;

(b) To administer the provisions of this subpart in accordance with its terms and provisions;

(c) To make rules to effectuate the terms and provisions of this subpart;

(d) To receive, investigate, and report to the Secretary complaints of violations of the provisions of this subpart;

(e) To disseminate information to producers or producer organizations through programs or by direct contact utilizing the public postage system or other systems;

(f) To assign responsibilities relating to budget and program development to the Committee as provided in § 1220.219.

## § 1220.212

## 7 CFR Ch. XI (1–1–02 Edition)

(g) To select committees and subcommittees of Board members, and to adopt such rules for the conduct of its business as it may deem advisable;

(h) To contract with Qualified State Soybean Boards to implement plans or projects;

(i) To recommend to the Secretary amendments to this subpart; and

(j) With the approval of the Secretary, to invest, pending disbursement pursuant to a plan or project, funds collected through assessments authorized under §1220.223 in, and only in, obligations of the United States or any agency thereof, in general obligations of any State or any political subdivision thereof, in any interest-bearing account or certificate of deposit of a bank which is a member of the Federal Reserve System, or in obligations fully guaranteed as to principal and interest by the United States.

### § 1220.212 Duties.

The Board shall have the following duties:

(a) To meet not less than three times annually, or more often if required for the Board to carry out its responsibilities pursuant to this subpart.

(b) To organize and select from among its members a chairperson, vice chairperson, a treasurer and such other officers as may be necessary.

(c) To appoint from its members an executive committee and to delegate to the committee authority to administer the terms and provisions of this subpart under the direction of the Board and within the policies determined by the Board.

(d) To employ or contract for such persons to perform administrative functions as it may deem necessary and define the duties and determine the compensation of each.

(e) To develop and submit to the Secretary for approval, promotion, research, consumer information, and industry information plans or projects.

(f) To prepare, and submit to the Secretary for approval, budgets on a fiscal period basis of its anticipated expenses and disbursements in the administration of this subpart, including probable costs of promotion, research, consumer information, and industry information plans or projects, and also including a

description of the proposed promotion, research, consumer information, and industry information programs contemplated therein.

(g) To maintain such books and records, which shall be available to the Secretary for inspection and audit, and to prepare and submit such reports from time to time to the Secretary, as the Secretary may prescribe, and to make appropriate accounting with respect to the receipt and disbursement of all funds entrusted to it.

(h) With the approval of the Secretary, to enter into contracts or agreements with appropriate parties, including national nonprofit producer-governed organizations, for the development and conduct of activities authorized under §1220.230 of this subpart and for the payment of the cost thereof with funds collected through assessments pursuant to §1220.223. Provided, that the Board shall contract with only one national nonprofit producer-governed organization to administer all projects within a program area.

Any such contract or agreement shall provide that:

(1) The contractor shall develop and submit to the Board a plan or project together with a budget or budgets which shall show the estimated cost to be incurred for such plan or project;

(2) Any such plan or project shall become effective only upon approval of the Secretary; and

(3) The contracting party shall keep complete and accurate records of all of its transactions and make periodic reports to the Board of activities conducted pursuant to a contract and an accounting for funds received and expended, and such other reports as the Secretary or the Board may require. The Board and Secretary may audit the records of the contracting party periodically.

(i) To prepare and make public, at least annually, a report of its activities carried out and an accounting for funds received and expended.

(j) [Reserved]

(k) To cause its books to be audited by a certified public accountant at least once each fiscal period and at such other times as the Secretary may require and to submit a copy of each such audit to the Secretary.

## Agricultural Marketing Service, USDA

## § 1220.216

(l) To give the Secretary the same notice of meetings of the Board and committees as is given to members in order that the Secretary, or a representative of the Secretary, may attend such meetings.

(m) To submit to the Secretary such information pursuant to this subpart as may be requested.

(n) To encourage the coordination of programs of promotion, research, consumer information, and industry information designed to strengthen the soybean industry's position in the marketplace and to maintain and expand domestic and foreign markets and uses for soybean and soybean products produced in the United States.

[56 FR 31049, July 9, 1991, as amended at 60 FR 29962, June 7, 1995; 60 FR 58500, Nov. 28, 1995]

### SOYBEAN PROGRAM COORDINATING COMMITTEE

#### § 1220.213 Establishment and membership.

(a) The Board may establish, with the approval of the Secretary, a Soybean Program Coordinating Committee to assist in the administration of this subpart. The Committee shall consist of 15 members. The Committee shall be composed of 10 Board members elected by the Board and 5 producers elected by the Cooperator Organization.

(b) Board representation on the Committee shall consist of the Chairperson and Treasurer of the Board, and eight additional members duly elected by the Board to serve on the Committee. The eight representatives to the Committee elected by the Board shall, to the extent practicable, reflect the geographic and unit distribution of soybean production.

(c) Cooperator Organization representation on the Committee shall consist of five members elected by the Cooperator Organization Board of Directors. The Cooperator Organization shall submit to the Secretary the names of the representatives elected by the Cooperator Organization to serve on the Committee, the manner in which such election was held, and verify that such representatives are producers. The prospective Cooperator Organization representatives shall file with the Sec-

retary a written agreement to serve on the Committee and to disclose any relationship with any soybean entity or with any organization that has or is being considered for a contractual relationship with the Board. When the Secretary is satisfied that the above conditions are met, the Secretary shall certify such representatives as eligible to serve on the Committee.

#### § 1220.214 Term of office.

(a) The members of the Committee shall serve for a term of 1 year.

(b) No member shall serve more than six consecutive terms.

#### § 1220.215 Vacancies.

To fill any vacancy occasioned by the death, removal, resignation, or disqualification of any member of the Committee, the Board or the Cooperator Organization, depending upon which organization is represented by the vacancy, shall submit the name of a successor for the position in the manner utilized to appoint representatives pursuant to § 1220.213 above.

#### § 1220.216 Procedure.

(a) Attendance of at least 12 members of the Committee shall constitute a quorum at a properly convened meeting of the Committee. Any action of the Committee shall require the concurring votes of at least two-thirds ( $\frac{2}{3}$ ) of the members present. The Committee shall establish rules concerning timely notice of meetings.

(b) When in the opinion of the chairperson of the Committee emergency action must be taken before a meeting can be called, the Committee may take action upon the concurring votes of no less than twelve of its members by mail, telephone, facsimile, or telegraph. Action taken by this emergency procedure is valid only if all members are notified and provided the opportunity to vote and any telephone vote is confirmed promptly in writing. Any action so taken shall have the same force and effect as though such action had been taken at a properly convened meeting of the Committee.

(c) A member may not cast votes by proxy.



## **§ 1220.217**

### **§ 1220.217 Compensation and reimbursement.**

The members of the Committee shall serve without compensation but shall be reimbursed by the Board for necessary and reasonable expenses incurred by them in the performance of their responsibilities under this subpart.

### **§ 1220.218 Officers of the Committee.**

The following persons shall serve as officers of the Committee:

- (a) The Chairperson of the Board shall be Chairperson of the Committee.
- (b) The Committee shall elect or appoint such other officers as it may deem necessary.

### **§ 1220.219 Powers of the Committee.**

If established by the Board, the Committee may have the following powers:

- (a) To receive and evaluate, or on its own initiative, develop and budget for plans or projects to promote the use of soybeans and soybean products as well as plans or projects for promotion, research, consumer information, and industry information and to make recommendations to the Board regarding such proposals; and
- (b) To select committees and subcommittees of Committee members, and to adopt such rules for the conduct of its business as it may deem advisable.

### **§ 1220.220 Duties of the Committee.**

If established by the Board, the Committee may have the following duties:

- (a) To meet and to organize;
- (b) To prepare and submit to the Board for approval, budgets on a fiscal period basis of proposed costs of promotion, research, consumer information, and industry information plans or projects, and also including a general description of the proposed promotion, research, consumer information, and industry information programs contemplated therein;
- (c) To give the Secretary the same notice of meetings of the Committee and its subcommittees as is given to members in order that the Secretary, or the Secretary's representative, may attend such meetings;
- (d) To submit to the Board and to the Secretary such information pursuant

## **7 CFR Ch. XI (1-1-02 Edition)**

to this subpart as may be requested; and

- (e) To encourage the coordination of programs of promotion, research, consumer information, and industry information designed to strengthen the soybean industry's position in the marketplace and to maintain and expand domestic and foreign markets and uses for soybeans and soybean products.

### **EXPENSES AND ASSESSMENTS**

### **§ 1220.222 Expenses.**

- (a) The Board is authorized to incur such expenses (including provision for a reasonable reserve) as the Secretary finds are reasonable and likely to be incurred by the Board for its maintenance and functioning and to enable it to exercise its powers and perform its duties in accordance with the provisions of this subpart. However, during any fiscal year, expenses incurred by the Board for administrative staff costs and their benefits shall not exceed 1 percent of the projected level of assessments, net of projected refunds, of the Board for that fiscal year. Such expenses shall be paid from assessments received pursuant to § 1220.223. The administrative expenses of the Board, including the cost of administrative staff, shall not exceed 5 percent of the projected level of assessments, net of projected refunds, of the Board for that fiscal year.

- (b) The Board shall reimburse the Secretary, from assessments received pursuant to § 1220.223, for administrative costs incurred after an Order has been submitted to the Department pursuant to section 1968(b) of the Act; Provided, that the Board shall only be required to reimburse the Secretary for one-half (50%) of the costs incurred by the Secretary to conduct the refund referendum relating to continuation of authority to pay refunds.

- (c)(1) The Board may, with the approval of the Secretary, authorize a credit to Qualified State Soybean Boards of up to 5 percent of the amount to be remitted to the Board pursuant to § 1220.223 and § 1220.228 of this subpart to offset collection and compliance costs relating to such assessments and for fees paid to State governmental

agencies or first purchasers for collection of the assessments where the payment of such fees by the Qualified State Soybean Board is required by State law enacted prior to November 28, 1990.

(2) The portion of the credit authorized in paragraph (c)(1) of this section which compensates Qualified State Soybean Boards for fees paid to State governmental agencies or first purchasers for collection of the assessments where the payment of such fees by the Qualified State Soybean Board is required by State law enacted prior to November 28, 1990:

(i) Shall not exceed one-half of such fees paid to State governmental agencies or first purchasers, and;

(ii) Shall not exceed 2.5 percent of the amount of assessments collected and remitted to the Board.

(3) Except for that portion of the credit issued pursuant to paragraph (c)(2) of this section, credits authorized by paragraph (c)(1) of this section will be included as part of the Board's administrative expenses.

#### § 1220.223 Assessments.

(a)(1) Except as prescribed by regulations approved by the Secretary or as otherwise provided in this section, each first purchaser of soybeans shall collect an assessment from the producer, and each producer shall pay such assessment to the first purchaser, at the rate of one-half of one percent (0.5%) of the net market price of the soybeans purchased. Each first purchaser shall remit such assessment to the Board or to a Qualified State Soybean Board, as provided in paragraph (a)(5) of this section.

(2) Any producer marketing processed soybeans or soybean products of that producer's own production, shall remit to a Qualified State Soybean Board or to the Board, as provided in paragraph (a)(5) of this section, an assessment on such soybeans or soybean products at a rate of one-half of one percent (0.5%) of the net market price of the soybeans involved or the equivalent thereof.

(3) In determining the assessment due from each producer under paragraph (a)(1) or (a)(2) of this section, a producer who is contributing to a

Qualified State Soybean Board shall receive a credit from the Board for contributions to such Qualified State Soybean Board on any soybeans assessed under this section in an amount not to exceed one-quarter of one percent of the net market price of the soybeans assessed.

(4) In order for a producer to receive the credit provided for in paragraph (a)(3) of this section, the Qualified State Soybean Board or the first purchaser must establish to the satisfaction of the Board that the producer has contributed to a Qualified State Soybean Board.

(5)(i) If the soybeans, for which an assessment is paid, were grown in a State other than the State which is the situs of the first purchaser, the first purchaser that collects the assessment shall remit the assessment and information as to the State of origin of the soybeans to the Qualified State Soybean Board operating in the State in which the first purchaser is located. The Qualified State Soybean Board operating in the State in which the first purchaser is located shall remit such assessments to the Qualified State Soybean Board operating in the State in which the soybeans were grown. If no such Qualified State Soybean Board exists in such State, then the assessments shall be remitted to the Board. The Board, with the approval of the Secretary, may authorize Qualified State Soybean Boards to propose modifications to the foregoing "State of Origin" rule to ensure effective coordination of assessment collections between Qualified State Soybean Boards.

(ii)(A) If a producer pledges soybeans grown by that producer as collateral for a loan issued by the Commodity Credit Corporation and if that producer forfeits said soybeans in lieu of loan repayment, the Commodity Credit Corporation shall at the time of the loan settlement, collect from the producer the assessments due based on 0.5 percent of the principal loan amount received by the producer and remit the assessment to the Qualified State Soybean Board in the State in which the soybeans were pledged, or if no Qualified State Soybean Board exists in such State, the Board.

(B) If a producer redeems and subsequently markets soybeans which have been pledged as collateral for a loan issued by the Commodity Credit Corporation, the first purchaser shall collect and remit the assessments due pursuant to paragraph (a)(1) of this section; or if a producer markets such soybeans as processed soybeans or as soybean products, the producer shall remit the assessment pursuant to paragraph (a)(2) of this section.

(iii) Qualified State Soybean Boards and the Board shall coordinate assessment collection procedures to ensure that producers marketing soybeans are required to pay only one assessment per bushel of soybeans and collections are adjusted among States on a mutually agreeable basis.

(b) The collection of assessments pursuant to paragraph (a) of this section, shall commence on and after the date assessments are required to be paid and shall continue until terminated by the Secretary. If the Board is not constituted on the date the first assessments are to be collected, the Secretary shall have the authority to receive the assessments on behalf of the Board, and to hold such assessments until the Board is constituted, then remit such assessments to the Board.

(c)(1) Each person responsible for the collection of assessments under paragraph (a) of this section, shall collect and remit the assessments to the Board or a Qualified State Soybean Board on a monthly basis or as required by State law, but no less than quarterly, unless the Board, with the approval of the Secretary, has specifically authorized otherwise.

(2) Any unpaid assessments due the Board or a Qualified State Soybean Board from a person responsible for remitting assessments to the Board or a Qualified State Soybean Board pursuant to paragraph (a) of this section, shall be increased two percent (2%) each month beginning with the day following the date such assessments were due under this subpart. Any remaining amount due shall be increased at the same rate on the corresponding day of each month thereafter until paid.

(3) The amounts payable pursuant to this section shall be computed monthly on unpaid assessments and shall in-

clude any unpaid late charges previously applied pursuant to this section.

(4) For the purpose of this section, any assessment that was determined at a date later than prescribed by this subpart because of a person's failure to submit a report to the Board or a Qualified State Soybean Board when due, shall be considered to have been payable by the date it would have been due if the report had been filed when due.

(d) Prior to the continuance referendum, the Board, pursuant to procedures approved by the Secretary, shall ensure that each Qualified State Soybean Board is provided credit in accordance with the provisions of section 1969(n)(1) and subject to section 1969(n)(3) of the Act.

(e) Following the continuance referendum, the Board, pursuant to procedures approved by the Secretary, shall ensure annually that each Qualified State Soybean Board is provided credit in accordance with the provisions of section 1969(n)(2) and subject to section 1969(n)(3) of the Act.

[56 FR 31049, July 9, 1991, as amended at 56 FR 42923, Aug. 30, 1991; 57 FR 31096, July 14, 1992]

**§§ 1220.224–1220.227 [Reserved]**

**§ 1220.228 Qualified State Soybean Boards.**

(a)(1) Any soybean promotion entity that is authorized by State statute to collect assessments required by State law from soybean producers may notify the Board of its election to be the Qualified State Soybean Board for the State in which it operates so that producers may receive credit pursuant to § 1220.223(a)(3) for contributions to such organization. Only one such entity may make such election or be qualified pursuant to paragraph (a)(2) of this section. Such entity, upon making such election, agrees to the following:

(i) To conduct activities as defined in § 1220.230 that are intended to strengthen the soybean industry's position in the marketplace;

(ii) Provide a report describing the manner in which assessments are collected and the procedure utilized to ensure that assessments due are paid;

(iii) Collect assessments paid on soybeans marketed within the State and establish procedures for ensuring compliance with this subpart with regard to the payment of such assessments;

(iv) Remit to the Board each assessment paid and remitted to it, minus authorized credits issued pursuant to § 1220.222(c) and credits issued to producers pursuant to § 1220.223(a)(3), and other required deductions by the last day of the month following the month in which the assessment was remitted to it unless the Board determines a different date for remittance of assessments;

(v)–(vi) [Reserved]

(vii) Furnish the Board with an annual report by a certified public accountant or an authorized State agency of all funds remitted to such Board pursuant to this subpart; and

(viii) Not use funds it collects pursuant to this subpart to fund plans or projects which make use of any unfair or deceptive acts or practices with respect to the quality, value or use of any product that competes with soybeans or soybean products; and

(ix)(A) Except as otherwise provided in paragraph (a)(1)(ix)(B) of this section, funds collected or received by the Qualified State Soybean Board under this subpart shall not be used in any manner for the purpose of influencing any action or policy of the United States Government, any foreign or State government, or any political subdivision thereof.

(B) The prohibition in paragraph (a)(1)(ix)(A) of this section, shall not apply to—

(1) The communication to appropriate government officials of information relating to the conduct, implementation, or results of promotion, research, consumer information, and industry information under the Order;

(2) Any action designed to market soybeans or soybean products directly to a foreign government or political subdivision thereof; or

(3) The development and recommendation of amendments to this subpart.

(2) If no entity elects to serve as a Qualified State Soybean Board within a State pursuant to paragraph (a)(1) of this section, any State soybean pro-

motion entity that is organized and operating within a State, and receives assessments or contributions from producers and conducts soybean or soybean product promotion, research, consumer information, or industry information programs, may apply for certification as the Qualified State Soybean Board for such State so that producers may receive credit pursuant to § 1220.223(a)(3) for contributions to such organizations. All provisions of this subpart applicable to Qualified State Soybean Boards will be applicable to such entity. The Board shall review such applications for certification and shall make a determination as to the certification of each applicant.

(b) In order for the State soybean entity to be certified by the Board pursuant to paragraph (a)(2) of this section, as a Qualified State Soybean Board, the entity must:

(1) Conduct activities as defined in § 1220.230 that are intended to strengthen the soybean industry's position in the marketplace;

(2) Submit to the Board a report describing the manner in which assessments are collected and the procedure utilized to ensure that assessments due are paid;

(3) Certify to the Board that such State entity will collect assessments paid on soybeans marketed within the State and establish procedures for ensuring compliance with this subpart with regard to the payment of such assessments;

(4) Certify to the Board that such organization will remit to the Board each assessment paid and remitted to it, minus credits issued pursuant to § 1220.222(c) and authorized credits issued to producers pursuant to § 1220.223(a)(3), and other required deductions by the last day of the month following the month in which the assessment was remitted to it unless the Board determines a different date for remittance of assessments;

(5)–(6) [Reserved]

(7) Certify to the Board that it will furnish the Board with an annual report by a certified public accountant or an authorized State agency of all funds remitted to such Board pursuant to this subpart; and

**§ 1220.229**

**7 CFR Ch. XI (1–1–02 Edition)**

(8) Not use funds it collects pursuant to this subpart to fund plans or projects which make use of any unfair or deceptive acts or practices with respect to the quality, value or use of any product that competes with soybeans or soybean products; and

(9)(i) Except as otherwise provided in paragraph (b)(9)(ii) of this section, funds collected or received by the Qualified State Soybean Board under this subpart shall not be used in any manner for the purpose of influencing any action or policy of the United States Government, any foreign or State government, or any political subdivision thereof.

(ii) The prohibition in paragraph (b)(9)(i) of this section, shall not apply to—

(A) The communication to appropriate government officials of information relating to the conduct, implementation, or results of promotion, research, consumer information, and industry information under this subpart;

(B) Any action designed to market soybeans or soybean products directly to a foreign government or political subdivision thereof; or

(C) The development and recommendation of amendments to this subpart.

(c) Notwithstanding any other provisions of this subpart, and provided that activities of a Qualified State Soybean Board are authorized under the Act and this subpart, the Board shall not have the authority to:

(1) Establish guidelines, regulations, or rules which would restrict or infringe upon a Qualified State Soybean Board's authority to determine administrative or program expenditure allocations or administrative or program implementation; and

(2) Direct Qualified State Soybean Boards to participate or not participate in program activities or implementation.

(d) The Board shall establish procedures, after an opportunity for public comment and subject to approval of the Secretary, which provide Qualified State Soybean Boards with a right to present information to the Board prior to any determinations relating to non-participation as a Qualified State Soybean Board following initial election or

determination as a Qualified State Soybean Board.

[56 FR 31049, July 9, 1991, as amended at 60 FR 58500, Nov. 28, 1995; 61 FR 50694, Sept. 27, 1996]

**§ 1220.229 Influencing governmental action.**

(a) Except as otherwise provided in paragraph (b) of this section, funds collected or received by the Board under this subpart shall not be used in any manner for the purpose of influencing any action or policy of the United States Government, any foreign or State government, or any political subdivision thereof.

(b) The prohibition in paragraph (a) of this section shall not apply to—

(1) The development and recommendation of amendments to this subpart;

(2) The communication to appropriate government officials of information relating to the conduct, implementation, or results of promotion, research, consumer information, and industry information under this subpart; or

(3) Any action designed to market soybeans or soybean products directly to a foreign government or political subdivision thereof.

**§ 1220.230 Promotion, research, consumer information, and industry information.**

(a) The Board shall receive and evaluate, or on its own initiative, develop and submit to the Secretary for approval any plans or projects authorized in this subpart. Such plans or projects shall provide for:

(1) The establishment, issuance, effectuation, and administration of appropriate promotion, research, consumer information, and industry information activities with respect to soybean and soybean products;

(2) The establishment and conduct of research, and studies with respect to the sale, distribution, marketing and utilization of soybean and soybean products and the creation of new products thereof, to the end that marketing and utilization of soybean and soybean products may be encouraged, expanded, improved or made more acceptable; and

## Agricultural Marketing Service, USDA

## § 1220.251

(3) Such other activities as are authorized by the Act and this subpart.

(b) Each plan or project described in paragraph (a) of this section, shall be periodically reviewed or evaluated by the Board to ensure that each such plan or project contributes to an effective program of promotion, research, consumer information, and industry information. If it is found by the Board that any such plan or project does not further the purposes of the Act, then the Board shall terminate such plan or project.

(c) No such plans or projects shall make use of unfair or deceptive acts or practices with respect to the quality, value or use of any competing product. In carrying out any plan or project funded by the Board described in paragraph (a) of this section, no preference shall be given to a brand or trade name of any soybean product without the approval of the Board and the Secretary.

### REPORTS, BOOKS, AND RECORDS

#### § 1220.241 Reports.

Each producer marketing processed soybeans or soybean products of that producer's own production and each first purchaser responsible for the collection of assessments under § 1220.223 shall be required to report to the Board periodically such information as may be required by the regulations recommended by the Board and approved by the Secretary. Such information may include but not be limited to the following:

(a) The number of bushels of soybeans purchased, initially transferred, or which, in any other manner, is subject to the collection of assessment;

(b) The amount of assessments remitted;

(c) The basis, if necessary, to show why the remittance is less than one-half percent (0.5%) of the net market price per bushel of soybeans purchased multiplied by the number of bushels purchased; and

(d) The date any assessment was paid.

#### § 1220.242 Books and records.

(a) Except as provided in paragraph (b) of this section, each person who is subject to this subpart shall maintain

and make available for inspection by the Board or Secretary such books and records as are necessary to carry out the provisions of this subpart and the regulations issued under this part, including such records as are necessary to verify any reports required. Such records shall be retained for at least two years beyond the fiscal period of their applicability.

(b) Any producer who plants less than 25 acres of soybeans annually and does not market such soybeans shall not be required to maintain books or records pursuant to this subpart.

#### § 1220.243 Confidential treatment.

Except as otherwise provided in the Act, financial or commercial information that is obtained under the Act and this subpart and that is privileged and confidential shall be kept confidential by all persons, including employees and former employees of the Board, all officers and employees and all former officers and employees of the Department, and by all officers and employees and all former officers and employees of contracting agencies having access to such information, and shall not be available to Board members or any other producers. Only those persons having a specific need for such information in order to effectively administer the provisions of this part shall have access to such information.

### MISCELLANEOUS

#### § 1220.251 Proceedings after termination.

(a) Upon the termination of this subpart, the Board shall recommend not more than five of its members to the Secretary to serve as trustees for the purpose of liquidating the affairs of the Board. Such persons, upon designation by the Secretary, shall become trustees of all the funds and property, owned, in the possession of or under the control of the Board, including any unpaid claims or property not delivered or any other claims existing at the time of such termination.

(b) The trustees shall:

(1) Continue in such capacity until discharged by the Secretary;

## § 1220.252

## 7 CFR Ch. XI (1–1–02 Edition)

(2) Carry out the obligations of the Board under any contract or agreements entered into by it pursuant to § 1220.212(h);

(3) From time to time account for all receipts and disbursements; and

(4) Deliver all property on hand, together with all books and records of the Board and of the trustees, to such persons as the Secretary may direct, and upon the request of the Secretary, execute such assignments or other instruments necessary or appropriate to vest in such persons full title and right to all of the funds, property, and claims vested in the Board or the trustees pursuant to this subpart.

(c) Any person to whom funds, property, or claims have been transferred or delivered pursuant to this subpart shall be subject to the same obligation imposed upon the Board and upon the trustees.

(d) Any residual funds not required to defray the necessary expenses of liquidation shall be turned over to the Secretary to be used, to the extent practicable, in the interest of continuing one or more of the promotion, research, consumer information, or industry information plans or projects authorized pursuant to this subpart.

### § 1220.252 Effect of termination or amendment.

Unless otherwise expressly provided by the Secretary, the termination of this subpart or of any rule issued pursuant hereto, or the issuance of any amendment to either thereof, shall not:

(a) Affect or waive any right, duty, obligation, or liability which shall have arisen or which may hereafter arise in connection with any provision of this subpart or any regulation issued thereunder;

(b) Release or extinguish any violation of this subpart or any regulation issued thereunder; or

(c) Affect or impair any rights or remedies of the United States, or of the Secretary, or of any person, with respect to any such violation.

### § 1220.253 Personal liability.

No member, employee or agent of the Board, including employees, agents or board members of Qualified State Soybean Boards, acting pursuant to au-

thority provided in this subpart, shall be held personally responsible, either individually or jointly, in any way whatsoever, to any person for errors in judgment, mistakes, or other acts of either commission or omission, of such member or employee, except for acts of dishonesty or willful misconduct.

### § 1220.254 Patents, copyrights, inventions, and publications.

(a) Any patents, copyrights, inventions, or publications developed through the use of funds remitted to the Board under the provisions of this subpart shall be the property of the U.S. Government as represented by the Board, and shall, along with any rents, royalties, residual payments, or other income from the rental, sale, leasing, franchising, or other uses of such patents, copyrights, inventions, or publications, inure to the benefit of the Board. Upon termination of this subpart, § 1220.251 shall apply to determine disposition of all such property.

(b) Notwithstanding the provisions of paragraph (a) of this section, if patents, copyrights, inventions, or publications are developed by the use of funds remitted to the Board under this subpart. Should patents, copyrights, inventions or publications be developed through the use of funds remitted to the Board under this subpart and funds contributed by another organization or person, ownership and related rights to such patents, copyrights, inventions, or publications shall be determined by agreement between the Board and the party contributing funds towards the development of such patent, copyright, invention or publication.

### § 1220.255 Amendments.

Amendments to this subpart may be proposed, from time to time, by the Board, or by any Qualified State Soybean Board recognized, or by any interested person affected by the provisions of the Act, including the Secretary.

### § 1220.256 Separability.

If any provision of this subpart is declared invalid or the applicability thereof to any person or circumstances

## Agricultural Marketing Service, USDA

## § 1220.311

is held invalid, the validity of the remainder of this subpart of the applicability thereof to other persons or circumstances shall not be affected thereby.

### § 1220.257 OMB control numbers.

The control number assigned to the information collection requirements by the Office of Management and Budget pursuant to the Paperwork Reduction Act, Public Law 96-511, is OMB number 0581-0093, except Board member nominee information sheets are assigned OMB number 0505-0001.

[56 FR 31049, July 9, 1991, as amended at 61 FR 50694, Sept. 27, 1996]

## Subpart B—Rules and Regulations

SOURCE: 57 FR 29439, July 2, 1992, unless otherwise noted.

### DEFINITIONS

#### § 1220.301 Terms defined.

As used throughout this subpart, unless the context otherwise requires, terms shall have the same meaning as the definition of such terms as appears in subpart A of this part.

### ASSESSMENTS

#### § 1220.310 Assessments.

(a) A 0.5 percent of the net market price per bushel assessment on soybeans marketed shall be paid by the producer of the soybeans in the manner designated in § 1220.311.

(b) If more than one producer shares the proceeds received for the soybeans marketed, each such producer is obligated to pay that portion of the assessments which is equivalent to each producer's proportionate share of the proceeds.

(c) Failure of the first purchaser to collect the assessment on each bushel of soybeans marketed as designated in § 1220.311 shall not relieve the producer of the producer's obligation to pay the assessment to the appropriate Qualified State Soybean Board or the United Soybean Board as required in § 1220.312.

#### § 1220.311 Collection and remittance of assessments.

(a) Except as otherwise provided in this section, each first purchaser making payment to a producer for soybeans marketed by a producer shall collect from that producer at the time of settlement of that producer's account an assessment at the rate of 0.5 percent of the net market price per bushel of soybeans marketed and shall be responsible for remitting the assessment to the Qualified State Soybean Board or the United Soybean Board as provided in § 1220.312. The first purchaser shall give to the producer a receipt indicating payment of the assessment. The receipt shall be any document issued by the first purchaser that contains the information requested in § 1220.314(a).

(b) A first purchaser who purchases soybeans pursuant to a contract with a producer, either on a volume basis or on a per acre basis, shall be responsible for remitting the assessment due on soybeans purchased as required in § 1220.312. Such assessment shall be based upon 0.5 percent of the net market price specified or established in the contract and shall be collected at the time of payment to the producer. If the net market price is not specified or established in the contract the assessment shall be based on fair market value as specified in paragraph (c) of this section below.

(c) Any producer marketing processed soybeans or soybean products of that producer's own production either directly or through retail or wholesale outlets shall be responsible for remitting to the Qualified State Soybean Board or the United Soybean Board pursuant to § 1220.312, an assessment on the number of bushels of soybeans processed or manufactured into soybean products at the rate 0.5 percent of the net market price of the soybeans involved or the equivalent thereof. The assessment shall attach upon date of sale of the processed soybeans or soybean products and shall be based upon the posted county price for soybeans on the date of the sale as posted at the local ASCS office for the county in which the soybeans are grown. The producer shall remit the assessment in the manner provided in § 1220.312.



## § 1220.312

## 7 CFR Ch. XI (1-1-02 Edition)

(d) Any producer marketing processed soybeans or soybean products of that producer's own production shall be responsible for remitting to the Qualified State Soybean Board or the United Soybean Board pursuant to § 1220.312, an assessment on the number of bushels of soybeans processed or manufactured into soybean products at the rate of 0.5 percent of the net market price of the soybeans involved or the equivalent thereof. The assessment shall attach upon the date of final settlement for such processed soybeans or soybean products and shall be based upon the posted county price for soybeans on the date of final settlement as posted at the local ASCS office for the county in which the soybeans are grown. The producer shall remit the assessment in the manner provided in § 1220.312.

(e) A producer delivering soybeans of the producer's own production against a soybean futures contract shall be responsible for remitting an assessment at the rate of 0.5 percent of net market price as specified in settlement documents. The assessment shall attach at the time of delivery and the producer shall remit the assessment due in accordance with § 1220.312.

(f) A producer who forfeits soybeans of that producer's own production which were pledged as collateral on a loan issued by Commodity Credit Corporation shall pay an assessment. The assessment shall attach upon the date the settlement statement is prepared and issued to the producer by the Commodity Credit Corporation and shall be 0.5 percent of the principal amount of the loan for the soybeans as specified by Commodity Credit Corporation in the settlement statement. The Commodity Credit Corporation shall collect the assessment and then remit the assessment due in accordance with § 1220.312.

### **§ 1220.312 Remittance of assessments and submission of reports to United Soybean Board or Qualified State Soybean Board.**

(a) Each first purchaser and each producer responsible for the remittance of assessments shall remit assessments and submit a report of assessments to the Qualified State Soybean Board in

the State in which each first purchaser or each producer responsible for the remittance of assessments is located or if there is no Qualified State Soybean Board in such State, then to the United Soybean Board as provided in this section.

(b) First purchasers and producers responsible for remitting assessments shall remit assessments and reports on a monthly or quarterly basis depending on the State or region in which the first purchasers or producers are located. The reporting period for each State and region shall be as follows:

| Monthly        | Quarterly    |
|----------------|--------------|
| Arkansas       | Alabama      |
| Delaware       | Florida      |
| Iowa           | Georgia      |
| Kansas         | Illinois     |
| Kentucky       | Indiana      |
| Louisiana      | Maryland     |
| Michigan       | North Dakota |
| Minnesota      | Nebraska     |
| Missouri       | New Jersey   |
| Mississippi    | Ohio         |
| North Carolina | Oklahoma     |
| South Carolina | Pennsylvania |
| Tennessee      | South Dakota |
| Texas          | Virginia     |
| Wisconsin      |              |
| Eastern Region |              |
| Western Region |              |

(c) *Reports.* Each first purchaser or producer responsible for remitting assessments shall make reports on forms made available by the United Soybean Board or on Qualified State Soybean Board forms which contain the information required in § 1220.241 and are approved by the Board. A first purchaser with multiple facilities or purchasing locations within a State shall have the option to submit a single, consolidated report specifying the combined volume of soybeans purchased or the net market value of all soybeans purchased from the producers in the State. Reports shall be submitted with assessments due in accordance with the provisions of paragraph (d) of this section.

(d) *Remittances.* Each first purchaser or producer responsible for remitting assessments shall remit all assessments to the Qualified State Soybean Board, its designee, or the United Soybean Board. All assessments shall be remitted in the form of a check or money order payable to the order of the applicable Qualified State Soybean Board or the United Soybean Board

## Agricultural Marketing Service, USDA

## § 1220.601

and shall be sent to the designated address not later than the last day of the month following the month or quarter in which the soybeans, processed soybeans, or soybean products were marketed and shall be accompanied by the reports required by paragraph (c) of this section. All remittances shall be received subject to collection and payment at par.

(e) *Receipt of Reports and Remittances.* The timeliness of receipt of reports and assessments by the Board or Qualified State Soybean Board shall be based on the applicable postmark date or the date actually received by the Board or the Qualified State Soybean Board whichever is earlier.

[57 FR 29439, July 2, 1992, as amended at 58 FR 40732, July 30, 1993; 60 FR 58500, Nov. 28, 1995]

### § 1220.313 Qualified State Soybean Boards.

The following State soybean promotion organizations shall be Qualified State Soybean Boards. First purchasers and producers responsible for remitting assessments located in States which have a Qualified State Soybean Board shall remit assessments accompanied by the required reports to the Qualified State Soybean Board in the State in which the first purchaser or producer responsible for remitting assessments is located.

- (1) Alabama Soybean Producers Board
- (2) Arkansas Soybean Promotion Board
- (3) Delaware Soybean Board
- (4) Florida Soybean Advisory Council
- (5) Georgia Agricultural Commodity Commission for Soybeans
- (6) Illinois Soybean Program Operating Board
- (7) Iowa Soybean Promotion Board
- (8) Indiana Soybean Development Council, Inc.
- (9) Kansas Soybean Commission
- (10) Kentucky Soybean Promotion Board
- (11) Louisiana Soybean Promotion Board
- (12) Maryland Soybean Board
- (13) Soybean promotion Committee of Michigan
- (14) Minnesota Soybean Research and Promotion Council
- (15) Mississippi Soybean Promotion Board
- (16) Missouri Soybean Merchandising Council
- (17) Nebraska Soybean Development, Utilization, and Marketing Board
- (18) New Jersey Soybean Board
- (19) North Carolina Soybean Producers Association

- (20) North Dakota Soybean Council
- (21) Ohio Soybean Council Board of Trustees
- (22) Oklahoma Soybean Commission
- (23) Pennsylvania Soybean Board
- (24) South Carolina Soybean Board
- (25) South Dakota Soybean Research and Promotion Council
- (26) Tennessee Soybean Promotion Board
- (27) Texas Soybean Producers Board
- (28) Virginia Soybean Board
- (29) Wisconsin Soybean Marketing Board, Inc.

### § 1220.314 Document evidencing payment of assessments.

(a) Each first purchaser responsible for remitting an assessment to a Qualified State Soybean Board or the United Soybean Board is required to give to the producer from whom the first purchaser collected an assessment written evidence of payment of the assessment containing the following information:

- (1) Name and address of the first purchaser.
- (2) Name of producer who paid assessment.
- (3) Number of bushels sold.
- (4) Net market price.
- (5) Total assessments paid by the producer.
- (6) Date.
- (7) State in which soybeans were grown.
- (b) [Reserved]

### §§ 1220.330–1220.332 [Reserved]

### Subparts C–E [Reserved]

### Subpart F—Procedures To Request a Referendum

SOURCE: 64 FR 45416, Aug. 20, 1999; 65 FR 1, Jan. 3, 2000, unless otherwise noted.

#### DEFINITIONS

### § 1220.600 Act.

The term *Act* means the Soybean, Promotion, Research, and Consumer Information Act set forth in title XIX, subtitle E, of the Food, Agriculture, Conservation, and Trade Act of 1990 (Pub. L. 101-624), and any amendments thereto.

### § 1220.601 Administrator, AMS.

The term *Administrator, AMS*, means the Administrator of the Agricultural

## § 1220.602

Marketing Service, or any officer or employee of the Department to whom there has been delegated or may be delegated the authority to act in the Administrator's stead.

## § 1220.602 Administrator, FSA.

The term *Administrator, FSA*, means the Administrator, of the Farm Service Agency, or any officer or employee of the Department to whom there has been delegated or may be delegated the authority to act in the Administrator's stead.

## § 1220.603 Department.

The term *Department* means the United States Department of Agriculture.

## § 1220.604 Farm Service Agency.

The term *Farm Service Agency*, also referred to as "FSA," means the Farm Service Agency of the Department.

## § 1220.605 Farm Service Agency County Committee.

The term *Farm Service Agency County Committee*, also referred to as "FSA County Committee or COC," means the group of persons within a county who are elected to act as the Farm Service Agency County Committee.

## § 1220.606 Farm Service Agency County Executive Director.

The term *Farm Service Agency County Executive Director*, also referred to as "CED," means the person employed by the FSA County Committee to execute the policies of the FSA County Committee and to be responsible for the day-to-day operation of the FSA county office, or the person acting in such capacity.

## § 1220.607 Order.

The term *Order* means the Soybean Promotion and Research Order.

## § 1220.608 Person.

The term *Person* means any individual, group of individuals, partnership, corporation, association, cooperative, or any other legal entity.

## 7 CFR Ch. XI (1-1-02 Edition)

## § 1220.609 Producer.

The term *Producer* means any person engaged in the growing of soybeans in the United States, who owns or shares the ownership and risk of loss of such soybeans.

## § 1220.610 Public notice.

The term *Public Notice* means a notice published in the FEDERAL REGISTER, not later than 60 days prior to the last day of the Request for Referendum period that provides information regarding the Request for Referendum period. Such notification shall include, but not be limited to, explanation of producers' rights; procedures to request a referendum, the purpose, dates of the Request for Referendum period, location for conducting the Request for Referendum, and eligibility requirements. Additionally, the Board is required to provide producers, in writing, this same information during that same time period. Other pertinent information shall also be provided, without advertising expense, through press releases by State and county FSA offices and other appropriate Government offices, by means of newspapers, electronic media, county newsletter, and the like.

## § 1220.611 Representative period.

The term *Representative period* means the period designated by the Secretary pursuant to Section 1970 of the Act.

## § 1220.612 Secretary.

The term *Secretary* means the Secretary of Agriculture of the United States Department of Agriculture or any other officer or employee of the Department to whom there has been delegated or to whom there may be delegated the authority to act in the Secretary's stead.

## § 1220.613 Soybeans.

The term *Soybeans* means all varieties of glycine max or glycine soja.

## § 1220.614 State and United States.

The terms *State* and *United States* include the 50 States of the United States of America, the District of Columbia, and the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico.

## Agricultural Marketing Service, USDA

## § 1220.621

### PROCEDURES

#### § 1220.615 General.

An opportunity to request a referendum shall be provided to U.S. soybean producers to determine whether eligible producers favor the conduct of a referendum and the Request for Referendum shall be carried out in accordance with this subpart.

(a) The opportunity to request a referendum shall be provided at the county FSA offices.

(b) If the Secretary determines, based on results of the Request for Referendum, that no less than 10 percent (not in excess of one-fifth of which may be producers in any one State) of all producers have requested a referendum on the Order, a referendum would be held within 1 year of that determination.

(c) If the Secretary determines, based on the results of the Request for Referendum, that the requirements in paragraph (b) of this section were not met, a referendum would not be conducted.

(d) For purposes of paragraphs (b) and (c) of this section, the number of soybean producers in the United States is determined to be 600,813.

#### § 1220.616 Supervision of the process for requesting a referendum.

The Administrator, AMS, shall be responsible for supervising the process of permitting producers to request a referendum in accordance with this subpart.

#### § 1220.617 Eligibility.

(a) *Eligible producers.* Each person who was a producer during the representative period is provided the opportunity to request a referendum. Each producer entity is entitled to only one request.

(b) *Proxy registration.* Proxy registration is not authorized except that an officer or employee of a corporate producer, or any guardian, administrator, executor, or trustee of a producer's estate, or an authorized representative of any eligible producer entity (other than an individual producer), such as a corporation or partnership, may request a referendum on behalf of that entity. Any individual who requests a

referendum on behalf of any producer entity, shall certify that he/she is authorized by such entity to take such action.

(c) *Joint and group interest.* A group of individuals, such as members of a family, joint tenants, tenants in common, a partnership, owners of community property, or a corporation engaged in the production of soybeans as a producer entity shall be entitled to make only one request for a referendum; provided, however, that any individual member of a group who is an eligible producer separate from the group may request a referendum separately.

#### § 1220.618 Time and place for requesting a referendum.

The opportunity to request a referendum shall be provided during a 4-week period beginning and ending on a date determined by the Secretary. Eligible persons shall have the opportunity to request a referendum by following the procedures in § 1220.621 during the normal business hours of each county FSA office.

#### § 1220.619 Facilities

Each county FSA office shall provide adequate facilities and space to permit producers to complete Form LS-51-1.

#### § 1220.620 Certification and request form.

Form LS-51-1 shall be used to request a referendum and certify producer eligibility. The form does not require a "yes" or "no." Individual producers and representatives of other producer entities should read the form carefully. By completing and signing the form, the individual simultaneously registers, certifies eligibility and requests that a referendum be conducted.

#### § 1220.621 Certification and request procedure.

(a) To request that a referendum be conducted, each eligible producer shall, during the Request for Referendum period, be provided the opportunity to request a referendum during a specified period announced by the Secretary, at the county FSA office where FSA maintains and processes the producer's administrative farm records. For the

producer not participating in FSA programs, the opportunity to request a referendum would be provided at the county FSA office serving the county where the producer owns or rents land. Each eligible producer shall be required to complete Form LS-51-1 in its entirety and sign it. The producer must legibly print his/her name and, if applicable, the producer entity represented, address, county, and telephone number. The producer must read the certification statement on Form LS-51-1 and sign it certifying that he/she or the producer entity represented was a producer of soybeans during the representative period and is requesting a referendum. Only a completed and signed Form LS-51-1 shall be considered a valid request for a referendum.

(b) To request a referendum eligible producers may obtain Form LS-51-1 in person, by mail, or by facsimile during the Request for Referendum period from the county FSA office where FSA maintains and processes the producer's administrative farm records. For the producer not participating in FSA programs, the opportunity to request a referendum would be provided at the county FSA office serving the county where the producer owns or rents land. Producers or producer entities may return Form LS-51-1 in person, by mail, or facsimile. Form's LS-51-1 returned in person or by facsimile, must be received in the appropriate county FSA office no later than the last business day of the Request for Referendum period to be considered a valid request. However, Form's LS-51-1 mailed to the county FSA office must be postmarked no later than the last business day of the Request for Referendum period and be received in the county FSA office no later than 10 business days after the last business day of the Request for Referendum period to be considered a valid request for a referendum.

(c) Eligible participants who obtain form LS-51-1 in person at the appropriate county office may complete, and return by hand the form the same day.

**§ 1220.622 List of producers requesting a referendum.**

(a) The county FSA personnel shall enter on the "List of Soybean Producers Requesting a Referendum" form

(Form LS-51-2), the following information for each returned Form LS-51-1: name of individual soybean producer or other producer entity, name of producer entity representative, if applicable, postmarked date of a mailed Form LS-51-1 and the date it was received in the county FSA office where FSA maintains and processes the producer's administrative farm records or at the county FSA office serving the county where the producer owns or rents land, the date Form LS-51-1 was received by facsimile or in person in the county FSA office where FSA maintains and processes the producer's administrative farm records or at the county FSA office serving the county where the producer owns or rents land. For any challenges of a producer's or producer entities' eligibility, the county FSA personnel would make a "check mark" in the space provided on Form LS-51-2 indicating a producer's or producer entities' eligibility has been challenged. After the challenge is resolved "eligible" or "ineligible" would be entered in the space provided on Form LS-51-2.

(b) County FSA offices shall, at all times, maintain control of the master (original) copy of Forms LS-51-1 and LS-51-2. A copy of each Form LS-51-2 shall be posted and made available for public inspection each day beginning on the first business day of the Request for Referendum period through the 11th business day following the last business day of the Request for Referendum period. An updated copy of Form LS-51-2 shall be posted in the county FSA office during normal business office hours in a conspicuous location.

**§ 1220.623 Challenge of eligibility.**

(a) *Who may challenge.* Any person may challenge a producer's or producer entity's eligibility to request a referendum. Each challenge must be in writing include the full name of the individual or other producer entity being challenged; be made on a separate piece of paper; and be signed by the challenger. The Secretary may issue other guidelines as the Secretary deems necessary.

(b) *Challenge period.* A challenge of a person's eligibility to request a referendum may be made on any business

day during the 4-week Request for Referendum period through the 11th business day after the Request for Referendum period.

(c) *Challenged names.* Producers whose eligibility is challenged shall be so noted with a “checkmark” in the space provided on Form LS-51-2.

(d) *Determination of challenges.* The FSA County Committee (COC) or designee, acting on behalf of the Administrator, AMS, shall make a determination concerning the challenge and shall notify challenged producers as soon as practicable, but no later than the 14th business day after the end of the request for referendum period. If the COC or designee is unable to determine whether a person was a producer during the representative period, the COC or designee may require the person challenged to submit records such as sales documents or similar documents to verify producer status during the representative period.

(e) *Appeal.* A person declared to be ineligible by the COC or designee, acting on behalf of the Administrator, AMS, may file an appeal at the county FSA office within 3 business days after notification by the county FSA office of its decision. Such person may be required to provide documentation such as sales documents or similar documents in order to demonstrate eligibility. An appeal shall be determined by the COC or designee as soon as practicable, but in all cases not later than the 18th business day after the last day of the Request for Referendum period. The determination of the COC or designee on an appeal shall be final.

(f) *Resolved challenges.* A challenge shall be determined to have been resolved if the determination of the COC or designee, acting on behalf of the Administrator, AMS, is not appealed within the time allowed for appeal or there has been a determination by the COC or designee after an appeal. After the challenge has been resolved, the county FSA office shall write either “eligible” or “ineligible” in the space provided on Form LS-51-2.

**§ 1220.624 Canvassing**

Canvassing of Forms LS-51-1 and LS-51-2 shall take place as soon as possible after the opening of county FSA offices

on the 19th business day following the Request for Referendum period. Such canvassing shall be under the supervision of the CED or designee, acting on behalf of the Administrator, AMS, who shall make a determination as to the number of valid or invalid requests for a referendum.

(a) Invalid requests for a referendum. An invalid request for a referendum may include the following:

(1) Form LS-51-1 is not signed and/or all required information has not been provided;

(2) Form LS-51-1 returned in person or by facsimile was not received by the last business day of the Request for Referendum period;

(3) Form LS-51-1 returned by mail was not postmarked by the last business day of the Request for Referendum period;

(4) Form LS-51-1 returned by mail was not received in the county FSA office by the 10th business day after the Request for Referendum period;

(5) Form LS-51-1 is mutilated or marked in such a way that any required information on the form is illegible; and/or

(6) Form LS-51-1 not returned to the appropriate county FSA office.

(b) Any Form LS-51-1 determined invalid shall not be considered as a request for a referendum.

**§ 1220.625 Counting requests.**

The requests for a referendum shall be counted by the COC or designee on the 19th business day after the last business day of the Request for Referendum period. Requests for a referendum shall be counted as follows:

(a) Total number of producers registering to request a referendum;

(b) Number of eligible producers requesting a referendum;

(c) Number of challenged producers deemed ineligible;

(d) Number of challenged producers; and

(e) Number of invalid requests for a referendum.

**§ 1220.626 Public review.**

The public may witness the counting from an area designated by the FSA County Executive Director (CED) or

## **§ 1220.627**

designee, acting on behalf of the Administrator, AMS, but may not interfere with the process.

### **§ 1220.627 FSA county office report.**

The county FSA office report shall be certified as accurate and complete by the CED or designee, acting on behalf of the Administrator, AMS. Such report shall include the information listed in §§ 1220.624 and 1220.625. The county FSA office shall notify the FSA State office of the results of the Request for Referendum on a form provided by the Administrator, FSA. Each county FSA office shall transmit the results in its county to the FSA State office. The results in each county may be made available to the public upon notification by the Administrator, FSA, that the final results have been released by the Secretary. A copy of the report shall be posted for 30 days following the date of notification by the Administrator, FSA, in the county FSA office in a conspicuous place accessible to the public. One copy shall be kept on file in the county FSA office for a period of at least 12 months after notification by FSA that the final results have been released by the Secretary.

### **§ 1220.628 FSA State office report.**

Each FSA State office shall transmit to the Administrator, FSA, a report summarizing the data contained in each of the reports from the county FSA office on a State report form provided by the Administrator, FSA. The State FSA office shall maintain one copy of the summary where it shall be available for public inspection upon request for a period of not less than 12 months after the results have been released.

### **§ 1220.629 Reporting results.**

(a) The Administrator, FSA, shall submit to the Administrator, AMS, the reports from all State FSA offices. The Administrator, AMS, shall tabulate the results of the Request for Referendum. The Department will issue an official press release announcing the results of the Request for Referendum and publish the same results in the *FEDERAL REGISTER*. Subsequently, State reports and related papers shall be available for public inspection upon request dur-

## **7 CFR Ch. XI (1–1–02 Edition)**

ing normal business hours in the Marketing Programs Branch office, Livestock and Seed Program, AMS, USDA, Room 2627 South Agriculture Building, 14th and Independence Avenue, SW., Washington, DC.

(b) If the Secretary deems necessary, a State report or county report shall be reexamined and checked by such persons who may be designated by the Secretary.

### **§ 1220.630 Disposition of records.**

Forms LS-51-1 and LS-51-2 and county reports shall be placed in sealed containers under the supervision of the CED or designee, acting on behalf of the Administrator, AMS, and such container shall be marked with "Request for Soybean Referendum." Such records shall remain in the secured custody of the CED or designee for a period of not less than 12 months after the date of notification by the Administrator, FSA, that the final results have been announced by the Secretary. If the county FSA office receives no notice to the contrary from the Administrator, FSA, by the end of the 12 month period, the CED or designee shall destroy the records.

### **§ 1220.631 Instructions and forms.**

The Administrator, AMS, is hereby authorized to prescribe additional instructions and forms not inconsistent with the provisions of this subpart.